



HR0973

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives are pleased to congratulate Robert W. Kaps on
4 the occasion of his retirement as a professor of aviation
5 management at Southern Illinois University; and

6 WHEREAS, Robert Kaps earned his master's degrees in
7 industrial relations and legal studies from Webster University
8 in St. Louis; in 1996, he earned his doctorate in workforce
9 education from Southern Illinois University Carbondale (SIUC);
10 and

11 WHEREAS, Robert Kaps started his career in aviation with
12 TWA in the late 1960s through an aviation management-training
13 program after earning his bachelor's degree; during his 14
14 years in various operations positions with TWA, he rose through
15 the ranks to become the airline's director of personnel; in
16 1978, he relocated to Ozark Airlines, where he became the
17 airline's staff vice president of industrial relations and
18 chief negotiator; and

19 WHEREAS, In 1981, Robert Kaps began his SIUC career by
20 teaching an off-campus course that focused on airline labor
21 relations; in 1991, he relocated to the Carbondale campus and
22 began teaching undergraduate courses in labor relations and

1 finance and graduate-level courses in international aviation
2 and airport administration; he has also served as a
3 college-level mentor for many years; and

4 WHEREAS, Robert Kaps is the author of 2 textbooks, "Air
5 Transport Labor Relations" and "Fiscal Aspects of Aviation
6 Management"; he is also the author of 14 professional papers,
7 17 peer-reviewed articles, and many presentations; and

8 WHEREAS, Robert Kaps was heavily involved with
9 establishing the Ryan McShane Hope Flys Golf Scramble, which
10 has raised more than \$10,000 and culminated in the award of a
11 scholarship and establishment of an endowment fund with the SIU
12 Foundation; and

13 WHEREAS, Robert Kaps is the 2011 recipient of the E.J. and
14 Mary C. Simon Distinguished Faculty Award in SIUC's College of
15 Applied Sciences and Arts; he also won the William A. Wheatley
16 Award from the University Aviation Association in 2008 for his
17 outstanding contributions to aviation education and was named
18 Teacher of the Year 6 times in 12 years; and

19 WHEREAS, Robert Kaps and his loving wife, Donna, have 3
20 grown daughters; and

21 WHEREAS, Robert Kaps serves as a model of hard work,

1 integrity, and dedication for the people of the State of
2 Illinois; therefore, be it

3 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
4 NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
5 we congratulate Robert W. Kaps on the occasion of his
6 retirement and wish him many happy and healthy retirement
7 years; and be it further

8 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
9 presented to Robert Kaps as a symbol of our esteem and respect.